[19th March 1934

Control of Books and Newspapers

Alleged inflammatory article against Islam in Pearson's Weekly and Veerakesari.

* 801 *Q.*—Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN: Will the Hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government are aware that Pearson's Weekly is under circulation in this Province; if so, whether they have perused its issue No. 2272, dated 10th January 1934, in which an article headed 'Mohamet' Prophet of Allah written by Mr. W. J. Mekin and a picture drawn by Mr. J. P. Davis has been published;

(*b*) if so, what action the Government have taken to prevent its circulation in this Province;

(*c*) whether it has been brought to the notice of the Government that other Provincial Governments as that of the Punjab have forfeited to His Majesty the said issue of the journal;

(*d*) whether the Government are aware that copies of 'Veerakesari," a Tamil daily of Ceylon, which contains a Tamil translation of the said article, are being circulated in this Province; and

(*e*) if so, what action the Government have taken to forfeit copies of the same?

A.—(*a*), (*b*) & (*c*) The Government have received a copy of the notification of the Punjab Government forfeiting to His Majesty every copy, wherever found, of the issue of the journal containing the article in question and all other documents containing copies, reprints, or translations of, or extracts from, the said article. The Government have ordered the republication of the notification in the *Fort St. George Gazette.* An order of forfeiture under section 99-A of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898, by one Local Government is enforceable throughout British India and it is consequently unnecessary for this Government to publish a separate notification.

(*d*) & (*e*) The Government have no information; but any translations of the said article can be forfeited under the notification referred to above.

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"May I take it that the publication of this order of the Punjab Government will be sufficient for the purpose that we have in view and whether all these copies will be forfeited to His Majesty the King including the translations that are found in any of the papers published not only in this Presidency but also elsewhere which have a circulation here?"

The Hon. Sir MAHOMED USMAN:—"Everything will be done to enforce the notification."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"May I know whether this Honourable Government will be pleased, either through the Government of India or direct, to represent to the Home Government that this article

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published in that issue of "Pearson's Weekly" has been responsible for creating bad feeling in the minds of a certain section of His Majesty's subjects in this Presidency?"

The Hon. Sir Mahomed Usman:—"That is the very reason why this notification has been issued by the Punjab Government and republished by us. The suggestion of the hon. Member will be considered."

B. Pocker Sahib Bahadur:—"May I ask whether the Hon. Member will be pleased to convey the feelings of the Muslim community to the Home Government and request them to order the forfeiture of such copies in the United Kingdom also?"

The Hon. Sir Mahomed Usman:—"I am afraid I will have to examine the suggestion of my hon. Friend."

Mr. V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliyar:—"As hon. Members are expected to take an intelligent interest in what is going on in this House, may I ask whether it will not be better if they are also informed of the nature of the article and the picture against which objection has been taken?"

The Hon. the President:—"Is it the hon. Member's suggestion that these should be circulated?"

The Hon. Sir Mahomed Usman:—"I do not think it is necessary at all."

B. Pocker Sahib Bahadur:—"May I ask whether the Government will be pleased to publish this notification in all the vernaculars so that the vernacular papers also may know its contents and stop publishing the translation in the vernacular?"

The Hon. Sir Mahomed Usman:—"I do not think it is necessary. We have followed the usual procedure."

[*Note.*—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

II.—ADJOURNMENT MOTION REGARDING RESETTLEMENT OPERATIONS IN THE KURNOOL DISTRICT.

* Mr. A. Ramakrishna Reddi:—"Sir, I beg leave to move the adjournment motion of which I have given notice, namely, that the business of this Council be adjourned for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance, viz.:—

'*the recent decision of the Government to carry out settlement operations in the Kurnool district and to put the new settlement rates into force even though they may be in excess of the present rates*'."

* The Hon. the President:—"The hon. Member will please explain how this matter is urgent. The hon. Member ought to have come before the House with this thing on the first day of this meeting. He will please tell me how it is urgent at this stage."